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The Book of War

The Making of the Roman Art War 400 BCE-1617.

In my last paper (Fall 2008) my aim was to offer an overview of my current research on the “art of war”, intended as a literary genre, during Greco-Roman antiquity and the Renaissance. Continuing to focus on this reading of the “art of war,” in this paper I discuss two particular aspects which give a more defined idea of my research: on the one hand I shed light on the difficult relationship between military history and literary texts, and on the other, I analyze one of the first authors of the “art of war” genre, Aineias the Tactician (4th century BC). These two apparently different aspects of my research are, in fact, deeply interrelated on a methodological level. In the first part I discuss the general approach of the modern historiography of war (in particular of the so called *New Military History*). Putting this in relationship with the tradition of ancient military texts, I emphasize the astonishing continuity marking the genre “art of war” up to the present day. This point has been made in previous scholarship, but I wish to expand the discourse of continuity to include contemporary scholarship itself within the scheme. This discussion represents the main argument of my *Introduction* (see preceding abstract for an outline of the monograph). In the second part I analyze some textual features of the extant work of Aineias the Tactician, the *Poliorketiká*. I call these features “strategies of authorization” since they aim to authorize at a micro-level both the author and the text as a vehicle of knowledge and action. This analysis constitutes part of *Chapter 2* of the monograph.